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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1951

SUBJECT Composition of the Bulgarian Naval Forces

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Staff of the Bulgarian Naval Forces is located in the Ministry of National Defense in Sofia. The main naval base is located in Varna in the Asparuk section, formerly called Sev Sevmes. There is also a dry dock for repairs to naval ships here. The naval forces get their manpower through the same channels as the army, namely the military districts. Each recruit must serve four years.
2. The Staff of the Danube naval units is located in Ruse which is the most important river naval base. The Danube naval forces are mainly composed of small motor boats and launches armed with machine guns.
3. At the present time Bulgaria possesses the following naval vessels:
 - a. Four mine layers built in 1905, which have been reconditioned and remodeled many times since then; one of these vessels is no longer seaworthy. These are 300-ton vessels, armed with two torpedo tubes and one light cannon.
 - b. Six German torpedo boats of 60 tons each, armed with one torpedo tube and a heavy machine gun. It is rumored that the Soviets were to furnish additional torpedo boats to Bulgaria.
 - c. One 1200 ton light training destroyer, given to Bulgaria in 1950 by Russia for the purpose of bolstering their Black Sea fleet.
 - d. Two Soviet submarines, are reported to be on their way from Russia to Bulgaria; two crews were sent for training at Sevastapol.
 - e. Four or five small mine sweepers.
4. The above ships do not include the small number of commercial vessels available to the Navy in case of war.

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